Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 19 Feb 2022 until 23:59 on Sunday 20 Feb 2022

Forecast Issued on Friday 18 Feb 2022 at 16:17

Confidence: High for a very unsettled and often windy period with regular changes between milder and colder conditions, but lower for timings of arrival and clearance of more persistent spells of precipitation.

Headline for Saturday 19 Feb 2022: Sunny spells and snow showers. Winds easing but still cold

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 19 Feb 2022

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Heavy snow showers	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
40%	30%	20%	10%	20%	50%	20%	40%

Forecast for Saturday 19 Feb 2022

Weather: Clear spells and snow showers through the early hours, these tending to become more isolated and less heavy towards dawn. Then a bright day with isolated mainly light snow showers, although southern fells likely to become cloudier for a time around the middle of the day with a risk of some patchy light snow. A band of heavier snow showers is expected to cross the Lakes around the middle of the afternoon. Cloud then increases through the evening with outbreaks of snow, turning increasingly to rain below about 600m, spreads east, becoming persistent and occasionally heavy towards midnight. Lying snow drifting and blowing in the strong winds until mid-morning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 75% through the morning, lowering to 25% across the south around midday and then more generally for a time around the middle of the afternoon. Chances fall again through the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud above about 600m, becoming periods above 450-600m across the south around midday and then more generally for a time around the middle of the afternoon. Otherwise visibility very good falling to around a kilometre in snow and snow showers, and near zero in blowing or drifting snow at first.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 19 Feb 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	46/58 W	44/56 W	35/45 W	24/29 SW	11/14 S	11/15 W	17/22 SW	23/28 SW	30/40 SW
600	36/49 W	35/49 W	29/40 W	19/27 SW	8/12 S	8/12 W	13/18 SW	18/25 SW	24/35 SW
300	15/40 W	16/39 W	13/31 W	8/19 SW	5/11 S	5/11 W	5/14 SW	7/18 SW	10/26 SW
Valley	16/39 W	17/38 W	14/30 W	8/18 SW	6/12 SW	6/11 W	6/14 SW	8/19 SW	13/25 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-15	-4/-14	-4/-14	-3/-12	-3/-8	-2/-7	-3/-9	-2/-10	-2/-10
600	-2/-11	-1/-10	-1/-9	-1/-8	-0/-4	0/-4	-0/-6	-0/-6	0/-7
300	1/-5	1/-4	1/-4	2/-2	2/0	2/0	2/-1	2/-1	3/-1
Valley	3/-2	4/-1	4/-1	4/1	4/2	5/2	4/2	4/2	5/1
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	400m	400m	500m	500m	500m	600m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts still around 55mph over ridges and summits at dawn but easing through the day.

Forecast for Sunday 20 Feb 2022

Weather: Heavy rain, and initially summit snow, continues through much of the morning with a thaw of any lying snow making underfoot conditions very wet. The rain turns more showery through the afternoon with perhaps some brighter spells developing, the showers turning increasingly to snow above 450m by evening and to lower levels later.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly veering westerly 35-45mph, with gusts around 75mph over ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance through the morning and early afternoon for most, but nearer 25% for eastern fells, rising to around 60% from mid-afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m, with patches below across southern and western fells, but cloud more occasional above 600m at times in the east and more generally from mid-afternoon. Otherwise visibility rather hazy falling to just a few kilometres in heavier rain becoming very good from mid-afternoon but falling to a kilometre or less in snow showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 6 or 7 rising to plus 10 or 11 by midday, falling back to plus 2 or 3 in evening
At 800m: Around minus 1 Celsius rising to plus 4 Celsius by dawn, falling to minus 2 Celsius later
Freezing level: 700m soon rising above summits, falling back towards 300m from mid-afternoon

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 18 February 2022. Location: Helvellyn Summit at 1120 Full report. As on Thursday, the following report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, it is precipitating and showers are forecast to continue. This is currently (Friday afternoon) falling as rain in the valleys and as snow at altitude. Therefore walkers out on the high fells (or lower fells should the freezing level drop) should expect, and be prepared to encounter, more snow than experienced and described below. The following will, though, provide an indication as to what any additional snow will settle onto. Fresh snow/hail has settled above 600m deposited on strong (and strengthening) predominantly westerly winds. Snow depth rises with height although due to the wind the actual depth encountered varies enormously from little, or indeed nothing, on windswept areas – such as large parts of the summit plateau – to drifts of over 60cm (and growing) although such depth was the exception. The deepest drifts can be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly east and north facing aspects. The fresh snow is very soft. Conversely above 850m in similar areas (although both south and north of due east) there are patches of old, hard, icy snow and these 2 layers have not bonded creating potential, or actual, instability in the snowpack. Cornices have, and are, growing over steep east and north facing slopes. Although currently small, cracks were already observed in some of them so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Above 850m windblown areas and rocks were covered in verglas (thin ice) some of which were hidden beneath a thin layer of fresh snow making for treacherous conditions. With sub zero temperatures and a summit windchill (what the temperature feels like) of minus 11 degrees, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots (not trainers) and equipment - including torch, map & compass and the ability to use them - are all essential for those going onto the fells. For those venturing above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe and crampons will also be essential. Exposed routes – such as Striding and Swirral Edges – are now in winter condition and should only be attempted by those equipped for, and experienced in, winter mountaineering including an ability to assess the stability, or otherwise, of the snowpack. Walking poles and microspikes are strongly recommended for anyone going above the snowline owing to the amount of ice encountered on paths. Conversely, fresh, deep snow obscuring landmarks (such as footpaths and cairns) when combined with low cloud can create potential or actual whiteout conditions necessitating excellent navigational skills and/or an ability to turn back before getting into difficulties. Goggles are also strongly recommended to reduce the biting sting of windblown hail/spindrift – they were essential on Friday!! For those interested in the weather stats and surprised (as was the assessor) at the windspeed, I didn't hang around the summit for very long, the wind was definitely stronger on the ascent/descent and it was deliberately before the main power of Storm Eunice hit!! Temperature : minus 1.5C, Maximum wind speed 31.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.2 C, Average wind speed: 27.9 mph

Issued at: 1617 on Fri 18 Feb 2022

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